A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, September 21. 1708.

Review. IF my mad Man be as good as his Word, I am to have ſomething very ill-natur'd to day about our Thankſgivings in this Nation; and tho' I am not yet ſure we ſhall be often troubled with Occaſions of publick Thankſgivings, yet I am very willing, our Practice ſhould be ſuitable to the Nature of a Day of Thankſgiving, and to the Temper of Thankfulneſs.

Mad Man. I have never fail'd you yet, when you have wanted me, and I ſee no Reaſon to fail you now; I am at your hand, Sir, and if you have any thing to ſay to juſtifie your Manner of Thankſgivings, *pray let me hear it.*

Rev. No, no, let us firſt hear what you have to ſay againſt it——

M. I have more to ſay againſt it, than you imagine, I believe.

Rev. I cannot imagine of what Kind your Objections are; I hope, you are not going to cavil at her Majeſty's Proceſſion to St. *Paul's*, and the ſinging *Te Deum*, the Muſick, the Organs, *&c.* theſe Things have been often enough debated already, and You and I are not likely to ſettle the Point; beſides, you'll only bring the *Rehearſal* on your Back, for tho' you know, he himſelf damns the whole Church as Schiſmatical, yet he, *God help her*, is the only Defender ſhe has left in this Age of her Mortification.

M. Indeed you miſtake me quite, I don't quarrel any Peoples Form of giving Thanks, provided they do but really give Thanks; the *Organs*, or the *Muſick*, or the Firing

Firing the *Guns* at the *Te Deum*, gives me no Offence; if *Te Deum* be fincerely in their Hearts, I am content——So they do but really praiſe GOD, let every one do it their own Way; *if I had my Sences again*, I would give Thanks my own Way, and never reproach others with doing it *a differing way* from me, ſo they were but thankful; 'tis Want of the Eſſentials of Thankſgiving, and ſupplying with ſomething eſſentially contrary to the very Nature of giving Thanks, and to the Nature of him you give Thanks to, *that I quarrel at*— And therefore *Brother Rehearſal and I* need not claſh here; beſides He and I are CHUMS, and both of a Claſs, he is a Member of our College, and has been ſo many Years—and mad Men never quarrel with one another; as for the Church of *England* being defended by mad Men, that Part of her which he defends can be defended by no other, therefore you need not wonder at it at all——

Rev. Well then, you have nothing at all to ſay againſt her Majeſty's Proceſſion to the Cathedral, *you promiſe me that.*

M. Not a Word, I wiſh all your People were as hearty in giving Thanks to GOD, as her Majeſty has given us Reaſon to believe *She is*— Indeed I could ſay, *it were to be wiſh'd*, there was not ſo many of the principal Inhabitants and Heads of Families of the City kept out of the Church by the Forms of that Day, *and by Conſequence of the People too*: But theſe common publick Solemnities are not without their Uſes, and my Objections do not lie *that way*, I am not ſo nice as you imagine.

But will you tell me, *for being Lunatick you know I have loſt my Memory*, what are the true Methods of a Nation's expreſſing their Thankfulneſs to Almighty GOD, in Caſes of great Mercies receiv'd, and what Precedents can you ſhow me, *I mean, ſuch as are to be juſtified and imitated?*

Rev. It is not my Turn to preach, *nor am I qualified*; but if you will have brief Heads, take them thus;

1. Publick Appearing in the Place of Worſhip, where *we are* firſt to acknowledge all our good Things from him, and next acknowledge them all to him; this is call'd Honouring GOD, *He that offers Praiſe glorifies me*, and is call'd in Foreign Lands at this Time, *Action de Grace.*
2. A Temper ſuited to Thankſgiving, which I will not pretend to deſcribe, but you have it in very few Words, in 2 *Pſalm*, 11 *verſe.*
3. Charity to the Poor, an old Practice antient as the Inſtitution of GOD's Church among the *Jews*, who on the Days of their Feſtivals were to ſend Portions to the Fatherleſs and Widow, and to ſuch for whom Nothing was provided.

M. What, is this all you have to ſay? Is there no other Work for a Day of Thankſgiving?

Rev. I could name you ſome Scripture-Examples, as of the Children of *Iſrael* ſinging Songs of Praiſe, *Solomon*'s Dedication of the Temple, of their ſolemn Days, of Sacrifices, and the like——

M. This is all nothing at all.

Rev. Then there was their publick Feaſts, their new Moons, and ſolemn Aſſemblies——

M. Ay, ay, their Feaſts, their Feaſts, there I ſhall have it—And there I ſuppoſe, the Magiſtrates were always drunk, and ſung, and ſwore, and ſp..d, ſaving your Worſhip's Preſence, to the Honour of the Occaſion.

Rev. Nothing like it.

M. Well, but to be ſure they drank Healths to their great Captains and Generals, ſuch as *Moſes* and *Joſhuah*, and ſometimes to the Immortal Memory of *Abraham*, *Iſaac* and *Jacob*, no queſtion they did that.

Rev. You are raving now indeed; theſe Things were not known then; the D——l had not carry'd on his Kingdom to ſuch a Height.

M. How! Nor did they not drink a Health to the Tabernacle, or to the *Urim* and *Thummim*, to the Ark, or afterwards to the Temple?

Rev. It would have been notorious Blaſphemy, and have been puniſh'd with immediate Death.

M. Why,

M. Why, do not ſome of our Magiſtrates do all theſe Things? Do not they roar, and be drunk, and ſwear, and blaſpheme, and drink Healths to the Church, and Healths to the Proteſtant Religion? Certainly, theſe Things muſt be found, either *in Precept* or *Example*, in the Scripture as a Work proper for a Day of Thankſgiving, or elſe our Rulers, Juſtices, *&c.* nay, and Spiritual Guides too, would never *do ſo.*

Rev. Certainly you muſt be miſtaken, or elſe they ought to have their Gowns pull'd over their Ears, and be made Example s Do not be too poſitive, are you ſure of the Fact?

M. Have you a Mind to have a black Liſt? If you'll come to my Chamber in *Bedlam*, I'll ſhow you a Catalogue of Names paſted up againſt my Wall; there I can read you the Men and the Crimes; there you have the Mayor of ..... and Five of his Brethren, the very laſt Thankſgiving-Day at Night, ſo drunk, they could not find their Way home; there you have ... and two Men of a Cloth drinking Healths to the Church of *England*, till they could be known to be of no Church but by their Out-rides, Devil Tavern, N°. (.....) there I can give you a Liſt of ſome City Clubs of our firſt Rate Gentlemen, who having lately very worthily ſuppreſs'd Vice in *Bartholomew-Fair*, were giving Thanks in Claret for the Victory of *Ondenard*, till the Wine got the Victory over their Underſtandings, and they left us a ſad Pattern of City Sobriety—*And indeed*, my Catalogue is ſo long, that it is not One, or Two, or Ten of your Papers will hold it—— There you have all the Thunder of their Oaths, the Irruptions of Blaſphemy, and the Noiſe of Damnation, SO LOUD, the Canon at the Siege of *Liſle* is a Fool to it, for it reaches up to Heaven, and pierces not the Ears, but the Souls of honeſt Men.

Rev. This is a ſad Story, and I doubt has too much Truth in it.

M. Now, ſince this is the general Method of our Thankſgiving, I appeal to all the World *out of Bedlam* to judge——— And if it be really true, that this was not the Method of giving Thanks in former Days, if there is no ſuch Practice allow'd of in Scripture, I cannot imagine, what you think of your ſelves; as to your publick Thankſgivings, the QUEEN leads you to the Church, there you mock GOD a little with a Song, and pretend to praiſe him, and from thence you adjourn to the Taverns or to Feaſtings, and there in *your more ſincere Manner*, you fly in his Face with all Manner of Exceſſes, inſulting the Majeſty of Heaven by Way of Thankſgiving, and calling upon him to damn you, inſtead of delivering you —What Drunkenneſs! What Reveſling! What Deformity of Manners and Debauching of Morals, are the Practices of our Rejoycings, as if GOD were to be prais'd by the Help of the Devil, and to be wicked to Exceſs was the beſt Acknowledgment of his Goodneſs! If this be to give Thanks, if this be the Return you make to Heaven for his Mercies, and for delivering you, for diſappointing Invaſions, and giving you Victory, I know not what you ſay to it, Mr. *Review*, but I aſſure you, we in *Bedlam* think, 'tis the only Way to cauſe Heaven, *in meer Mercy to you*, to take away the Occaſions of ſuch Mockery, that ſuch horrid Hypocriſie, and monſtrous Affronts of his Majeſty may not provoke him to turn your Joy into Sorrow, and ſee, whether you can be more ſincere in your Days of Humiliation, than you are in your Thankſgiving.

Rev. You are gotten into a ſad Story, O I care not to hear it———

M. Have I made out my Charge, am I as good as my Word?

Rev. Ay, ay, I acknowledge it ——— I beſeech you give me Quarter, I am perfectly conquer'd, it is all true, too true—— Publiſh it not in *Gath*——— The whole Nation ought to bluſh and be aſham'd; but in Pity let us not enter into Particulars.

M. Well, *I'll forbear that ungrateful Part*; but I muſt give you another Part of this in my next, which perhaps may be of publick Uſe.

ADVER-

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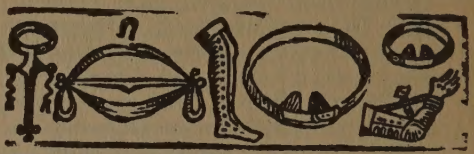

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NOTE, He forges and finiſhes his Truſſes himſelf, by which means he daily Improves his Inventions.

☞ I *Thomas Pritchard*, at the *Saracens-Head* in *Little Carter Lane*, near St. *Paul's*, *London*, having a Son who had a very bad Rupture, and applying to Mr. *Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* in *Preſcot-ſtreet* in *Goodman's-Fields*, *London*, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprize, and my Son has remain'd well ever ſince.

This is to give Notice, that I *Richard Baker*, of *Lawrence-Poltneys Lane*, *Cannonſtreet*, *London*, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at laſt I apply'd my ſelf to the late Mr. *Chriſtopher Bartlett*, at the *Golden Ball* by the Tavern in *Preſcot-ſtreet* in *Goodman's-Fields*; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Truſſes and Rupture Spirits, with the Bleſſing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever ſince. which is about four or five Years.

NOTE, His Son *P. Bartlett* lives at the ſame Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the ſame Buſineſs, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly Inſtructed therein.